



## Bellevue helps residents sign up for health insurance

More than 11,000 people in Bellevue are uninsured. Starting this month, as a result of the Affordable Care Act, uninsured or underinsured residents can shop for health insurance that fits their needs and budgets. Washington residents have a new way to find, compare and enroll in health insurance coverage. It's called Washington Healthplanfinder.

All health plans offered through Washington

Healthplanfinder include basic benefits like doctor visits, emergency care, prescriptions, maternity care, and preventive care like cancer screenings and vaccinations.

Free or low cost coverage is available.

Depending on

how much you earn, you may qualify for free coverage, or for tax credits or financial help to pay for copays and premiums. No one will be denied coverage because they are sick or because they have a pre-existing condition.

Enrollment begins on Oct. 1, 2013 for coverage that begins Jan. 1, 2014. King County Public Health-Seattle & King County will offer several local enrollment events in October and November, including many in Bellevue.

The Bellevue kick-off event is Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Crossroads Shopping Center,

15600 NE 8th St., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At the event, health insurance providers will be onsite to answer specific questions about the plans they are offering. Public Health certified customer service experts, who are trained to give unbiased information regarding insurance options, will be available in the Crossroads Community Room to provide individual help with enrollment. For a calendar of additional Bellevue events, visit: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/coverage/calendar/Bellevue>.

## Multi-lingual customer service experts, information, referral and language assistance:

A customer service expert from King County Public Health will be available in front of Bellevue's Mini City Hall inside Crossroads Shopping Center offering help in Spanish and English on Mondays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Customer service experts from International Community Health Services will be available for enrollment appointments in Vietnamese, Korean and English, two days a week at Mini City Hall. In addition, City staff and Cultural Navigators from Chinese Information Services are available to help personal assistants provide scheduled individual assistance in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Spanish, Russian, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali. Call 425-452-2800 to schedule an appointment with a multi-lingual personal assistant.

Learn more at [www.kingcounty.gov/coverage](http://www.kingcounty.gov/coverage) or visit [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org) to enroll.

## Cultural Conversations Birth stories from around the world – Cultural attitudes, practices and choices

*Tuesday, October 22, 1-2:30pm*

*Crossroads Community Center*

Bellevue women will have an opportunity to learn about cultures around the world from their friends and neighbors at the next Cultural Conversations meeting on Oct 22. The women's group will turn its focus on sharing birth stories from different parts of the world, and how family structures, cultures, and traditions impact our attitude, experience and choices when it comes to maternity care and birth.

Paula Matthyse, Outreach Director for the Eastside Community Network and manager of the Cultural Navigator program will lead the conversation and facilitate discussions. Paula has four children of her own and all four of the birth stories are unique and different. She will share how her choices were informed by culture, family dynamics, and her understanding of what it means to be a mother even before her first child was born. Following the storytelling, we will break into smaller groups for facilitated conversations and experience sharing.

The Cultural Conversations Program was launched in 2010 as a partnership between diverse women in the community and the City of Bellevue. It was initiated by women who had a desire to get better connected with their changing and diverse community. Cultural Conversations meets about every six weeks. The events are free, refreshments are served and women of all ages, faiths and cultures are welcome to attend.

Storytelling is a powerful way to learn about cultures other than your own. Participants see

this as an opportunity to experience others' cultures and comprehend various perspectives. This is also a platform for participants to seek understanding among friends and neighbors who are from different ethnic backgrounds. The relaxed and intimate atmosphere creates a unique and safe environment for women to bond and share their experiences with each other.

The 2013-2014 Cultural Conversation cycle kicked off in September with the topic: Women and Money across Cultures - "What I learned as a girl and how that influenced who I am Today". The exciting topics for this new cycle include (subject to change):

- One family, many cultures
- Cultural translations – how culture, language and perception impact our communication
- Finding your own voice – breaking through cultural challenges and expectations
- Immigration – the gain and the loss
- Cultural mishap and labeling
- Cultural attitudes toward aging and elder care

For more information about Cultural Conversations, please contact Ying Carlson at 425-452-4342 [ycarlson@bellevuwa.gov](mailto:ycarlson@bellevuwa.gov) or Barb Tuininga at 425-452-2735 [btuininga@bellevuwa.gov](mailto:btuininga@bellevuwa.gov).

---



## Fire Department Open House

*Saturday, Oct 5, 10am-4pm*

*Station 1: 766 Bellevue Way SE*

*Station 2: 2802 148th Ave. SE*

*Station 3: 16100 NE Eighth St.*

*Station 5: 9621 NE 24th St.*

*Station 8: 5701 Lakemont Blvd. SE*

*Station 9: 12412 Newcastle Way*

As Fire Prevention Week approaches this month, Bellevue residents are invited to visit Bellevue fire stations on Oct 5 at an open house to meet their local firemen and learn tips about fire safety and prevention. This year's theme is "Prevent Kitchen Fires". Kids can learn how to create a home escape plan in the event of an emergency.

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires, and a significant contributor to home fire deaths. The Fire Department wants to raise awareness and to provide safety tips on how to cook with caution to keep fires from starting. In an effort to promote the creation of a home escape plan, a drawing will be held with a grand prize of a ride to school in a fire engine. To enter into the drawing, a child (7-15 years of age) must complete a home fire



escape plan and present it to a firefighter during the open house. Other interesting activities at the open house include demonstrations of actual stove top fires, fire extinguisher use and tours of the stations and equipment. In addition Bellevue Police will be displaying the SWAT Bearcat tactical vehicle.

Drop by any of the Fire Stations in Bellevue

during the October open house and join us for a fun filled event. For more information, please contact Richard Burke at 425-452-6995 or [rburke@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rburke@bellevuewa.gov)

## Prepared for Stormy Weather? Get Your Winter Plan Together

Ah, fall. Bittersweet though the farewell to summer may be, we're happy to welcome the season that's made for turning over a new leaf. Something about the change in the weather prompts a productive mood! As the air turns chilly, Bellevue Office of Emergency Management is reminding you to think ahead and plan for winter.

- If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times, just in case. In addition, make sure that the emergency kit you keep in your car is well stocked. Toss in a window scraper, sturdy shoes and a warm jacket.
- Add these items to your home emergency kit: rock salt; a snow shovel; extra cozy clothing and blankets.
- Insulate your home's indoor and outdoor pipes to prevent freezing.
- Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it's important to know how you'll contact each other, how you'll get back together and what you'll do in case of an emergency.



During severe winter weather:

- Minimize travel as much as possible.
- Bring pets/companion animals indoors.
- Leave grills and generators outdoors.

- Snuggle up and enjoy a book or a board game!

We hate to say it, but winter will be upon us before too long. Think of it this way: once you've got your winter plan in place, you can savor the season and reward yourself with a pumpkin spice latte! For more information on getting prepared for winter, find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/BellevueOEM](http://www.facebook.com/BellevueOEM) or subscribe to our newsletter <http://eepurl.com/D8nCD>

## Completion Celebration: West Lake Sammamish Pkwy Project

*Thursday, Oct 10, 1-2:30pm*

**SAMBICA Dining Hall,  
4114 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE**

West Lake Sammamish Parkway will reopen for normal two-way traffic operation on October 4. Crews will be finishing final work with intermittent day-time lane closures as the project comes to a close. To thank those who live and work in the area for their patience and cooperation, and to celebrate the completion of this project, the City of Bellevue and SAMBICA Camp and Retreat Center are co-hosting a project celebration on Thursday, October 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at SAMBICA Dining Hall, 4114 West Lake Sammamish Parkway Southeast.

Construction of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase One Project began in January 2013 and will be completed in early October, about one month ahead of schedule. This segment of West Lake Sammamish Parkway has been closed to southbound traffic since March. Without the southbound detour, the project would have taken 18 months to complete.

The project restored existing pavement and provided a multi-use trail along the west side of the arterial. Parkway users will see a new paved four-foot shoulder on the east side of the roadway, a mile-long multi-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists on the west side, new sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, new storm drains and water mains.

See the video about the West Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase One Project on the City of Bellevue's YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ndAUOzSA2k>. For more information about the project, please visit [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/west\\_lk\\_samm\\_prkwy.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/west_lk_samm_prkwy.htm) or contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 [pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov)



## Save the Date for Website, Blog and Social Media Workshop

*Thursday, Nov 7, 6:30-8pm*

*Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-113*

Now you have heard of all the buzz about websites, blogs and social media, which one is the right tool for you and your neighborhood? How do you engage with your neighbors in this information overflow era? You won't find all the answers but you will have an opportunity to hear a presentation by a neighborhood social media expert and have a dialog with neighborhood panelists at this Website, Blog and Social Media Workshop on November 7, 6:30-8 at City Hall.



This workshop will be led by Elizabeth P. Stewart and will focus on all the available online tools for neighborhoods and basic strategy on engaging residents to participate in community activities. Elizabeth is the director of the Renton History Museum and chair of 4Culture's Heritage Advisory Committee. She has been a key member of the City of Renton's social media team working with local communities to improve communication and increase resident involvement. She has in-depth understanding of the subject and is passionate about building strong neighborhood connections through online community. She also has a particular

interest in social media's role in emergency preparation planning and civic engagement.

Following Elizabeth's presentation, three panelists from Bellevue neighborhoods will share their experience of using website, blog, Facebook, Nextdoor and other online tools to communicate with their neighbors. Participants will also have a chance to ask questions and share their perspectives.

Space for this workshop is limited; please send your RSVP to Ying Carlson at [ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-4342

---



## October Meetings

*(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)*

**10/1 Arts Commission** (4:30, 1E-109) EastLink public art planning, 2014 Funding Guidelines review including both Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects, and Bellwether 2014 planning  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm)

**10/1 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Boys & Girls Teen Center, 15228 Lake Hills Blvd.) Public hearing and consider adoption of the Kelsey Creek Center Rezone Application  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm)

**10/1 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Review revised draft of the Human Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan, Housing Element & other parts of the Comprehensive Plan  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**10/3 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) West Side Storage Project, Wastewater System Plan, City Comprehensive Plan  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm)

**10/3 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30-10:30a.m., 1E-120) Presentation on Assisted Living regulations by Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Committee Reports  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network\\_on\\_aging.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm)

**10/7 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Collective Garden Regulations and Planning Commission Recommendation, Introduce Recreational Cannabis Regulations, Downtown Transportation Plan Update (Postponed from 9/23) (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Update on King County Issues of Interest to Bellevue by KC, Consent Calendar  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/8 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, 1E-113) Surrey Downs Park Master Plan Update, Comprehensive Plan Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks\\_board.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm)

**10/9 Planning Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan update, Shoreline Master Program (SMP) conformance amendments  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**10/10 Transportation Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Residential Parking Zone, Transportation Development Code, Plan Update  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm)

**10/14 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, 1E-113) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Presentation by Human Services Commission  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/15 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human\\_serv\\_comm.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm)

**10/16 Downtown Livability Advisory Committee Meeting** (6:30, 1E-108) Continued discussion of Downtown code elements  
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-livability.htm>

**10/21 City Council** (6:00 study session, 1E-113) Tax Simplification, Planning Commission Work Program (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, Action on Collective Gardens Regulations and Interim Regulations for Recreational Cannabis  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

**10/23 Planning Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan update, Shoreline Master Program (SMP) conformance amendments  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning\\_commission.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm)

**10/28 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, East Link Project Update [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council\\_overview.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm)

Subscribe this newsletter on  
[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood\\_news.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_news.htm)  
Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.